

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A gripper assembly which comprises:  
a body;  
an actuator coupled to the body;  
at least one jaw member being pivotal with respect to the body;  
wherein the jaw member comprises a cam slot;  
wherein the cam slot is a space formed by opposed cam walls  
located in the jaw arm;  
wherein the cam walls form a locking portion and a pivoting  
portion;  
wherein the distance between the cam walls of the locking portion  
is substantially equal to the distance between the cam walls of the pivoting portion;  
a cam pin attached to the actuator;  
wherein a portion the cam pin is located and movable in the cam  
slot.
2. The gripper assembly according to Claim 1, wherein the locking  
portion is substantially a straight slot portion.
3. The gripper assembly according to Claim 1, wherein the pivoting  
portion is substantially a curved slot portion.
4. The gripper assembly according to Claim 1, wherein the slot is  
closed at each end.
5. The gripper assembly according to Claim 2, wherein the at least  
one jaw member is a plurality of jaw members.

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6. The gripper assembly according to Claim 5, further comprising a rod that is engagable by the actuator and connected to the cam pin.